

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 110991 TOSEC 040311
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DKEOUGH

APPROVED BY D - MR. CHRISTOPHER

S/S:SESTEINER

AF - WESCHAUFLE

NSC: DR. Z. BRZEZINSKI

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O 150405Z MAY 77 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110991 TOSEC 040311

EXDIS; NAIROBI FOR AMB. LOW , WHITE HOUSE - BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: X;DS-1

TAGS: RH, SA, US, UK

SUBJECT: OUR RESPONSE TO RHODESIAN THREAT IN ZAMBIA

LISBON FOR A LAKE SP WITH THE VICE PRESIDENTS PARTY

REF: (A) LUSAKA 1303) B LUSKA 1300

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU REFTEL (A), WHICH CONTAINS
TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO PRESIDENT
CARTER, IN WHICH KAUNDA EXPRESSES DEEP RESENTMENT OF
ROLE PLAYED BY BRITISH IN INFORMING HIM OF THREAT FROM
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IAN SMITH. SMITH INDICATED IN MESSAGE TO DAVID OWEN,
WHICH OWEN PASSED TO KAUNDA, THAT RHODESIA MIGHT HAVE
NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO MOUNT PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST
ZAPU BASES IN ZAMBIA TO BLUNT MAJOR OFFENSIVE
AGAINST RHODESIA REPORTEDLY PLANNED FOR LATE MAY.

2. YOU SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH HAWKINS AS SOON

AS POSSIBLE AND PASS TO HIM THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A) PRESIDENT CARTER HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA CONVEYING THE LATTER'S CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF PREEMPTIVE RHODESIAN STRIKES AGAINST ZAMBIA INTENDED TO BLUNT A REPORTED ZAPU OFFENSIVE.
- B) WE WANT TO TELL YOU THAT WE SHARE PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S CONCERN. WE WOULD CONSIDER A STRIKE AGAINST ZAMBIA

A VERY SERIOUS MATTER, INDEED.

- C) ESCALATION OF THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT ACROSS ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL BORDER CARRIES GRAVE RISKS OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION. RHODESIA CANNOT IMPROVE ITS PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE BY SUCH ACTION.

- D) WE EXPECT THAT THE SALISBURY AUTHORITIES WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIONS, SUCH AS A STRIKE AGAINST ZAMBIA, WHICH WILL DEFEAT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESENT ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH BRANDT FOURIE TO CONVEY TO HIM SUBSTANCE OF THE MESSAGE YOU HAVE GIVEN HAWKINS. YOU SHOULD ADD THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A) WE HOPE THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL WORK TO PREVENT ACTIONS BY SMITH WHICH WILL COMPROMISE OUR EFFORTS TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, BUT WHICH WILL GAIN LITTLE IF ANY MILITARY ADVANTAGE FOR THE SMITH REGIME.
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- B) SMITH SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THREATS OF PREEMPTIVE ACTION MAY HAVE EFFECTS THAT ARE THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE MAY INTEND.

- C) IN THE DELICATE SITUATION WHICH EXISTS IN THE REGION, SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD URGE SMITH TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS ON NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH IS THE COURSE WHICH WILL OFFER THE BEST HOPE FOR THE KIND OF SETTLEMENT WHICH IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. CHRISTOPHER

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